

Claims

We claim:

1. A method for treating a patient diagnosed with at least one ophthalmic disorder, wherein said method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a steroidal quinol that is converted to a biologically active phenolic A-ring steroid compound *in vivo*.

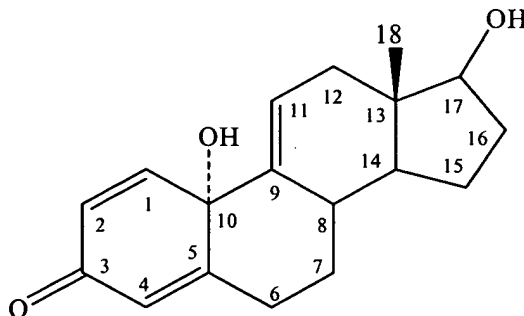
2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the quinol is converted to the biologically active phenolic A-ring steroid compound via enzyme-catalyzed reduction.

3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme-catalyzed reduction occurs with an oxidoreductase.

4. The method, according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme-catalyzed reduction occurs with NADH as a reducing agent.

5. The method, according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme-catalyzed reduction occurs with NADPH as a reducing agent.

6. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol has the general structure

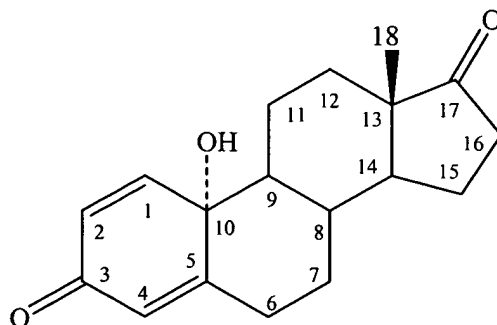


6. The method, according to claim 5, wherein steroidal quinol is derived from the estrogen analog 3,17-dihydroxyestra-1,3,5(10),9(11)-tetraene.

7. The method, according to claim 5, further comprising administering the quinol by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, buccal, intramuscular, transdermal, intravenous, and subcutaneous.

8. The method, according to claim 5, wherein the ophthalmic disorders are selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.

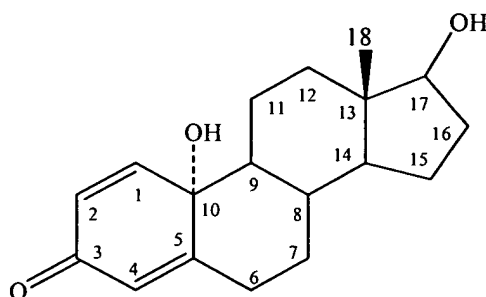
9. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol has the general structure:



10. The method, according to claim 9, further comprising administering the quinol by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, buccal, intramuscular, transdermal, intravenous, and subcutaneous.

11. The method, according to claim 9, wherein the ophthalmic disorders are selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.

12. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the quinol has the general structure:



5           13. The method, according to claim 12, further comprising administering the quinol by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, buccal, intramuscular, transdermal, intravenous, and subcutaneous.

10           14. The method, according to claim 12, wherein the ophthalmic disorders are selected from the group consisting of conjunctivitis, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye, macular degeneration, glaucoma, and cataracts.

15           15. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol is derived from 2-(1-adamantyl)-3-hydroxyestra-1, 3, 5 (10)-trien-17-one.

            16. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol includes a polar functional group to decrease lipophilicity.

20           17. The method, according to claim 16, wherein the polar functional group is a phosphate.

            18. The method, according to claim 16, wherein the polar functional group is an N,N,N-trialkylammonium ester.

19. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the steroidal quinol does not confer systemic side effects.